

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2498

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB SHUM PINS KS
SUBJ: FKTU VIEWS OF TONGHIL TEXTILE DISPUTE

REF: (A) SEOUL 2003 (DTG 110400Z MAR 78)
(B) SEOUL 2359 (DTG 230830Z MAR 78)

SUMMARY: TONGHIL TEXTILE CASE - ESSENTIALLY A DISPUTE OVER A
LOCAL UNION ELECTION - HAS ATTRACTED HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION OF
ROKG, TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND CHURCHES. NONE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CASE HAVE ANY REASON TO BE PROUD OF THEIR PERFORMANCE
SO FAR. THIS MESSAGE GIVES FKTU VIEWS OF CASE. FKTU LACKS
AUTHORITY TO ORDER SOLUTION OF ISSUE AND DOUBTS THAT EASY
RESOLUTION POSSIBLE. INCIDENT SHOWS SIGNIFICANT DIVERGENCE
OF VIEWS BETWEEN FKTU AND ROKG. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FKTU HAS BECOME INVOLVED IN MEDIATING THE TONGHIL
TEXTILE DISPUTE, BUT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT EARLY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. IN FKTU VIEW, TONGHIL
MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (NTWU) HAVE
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COMBINED TO DRIVE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATED WORKER GROUP OUT
OF LEADERSHIP OF TONGHIL UNION. MANAGEMENT WANTS LESS
RADICAL UNION, AND NTWU PRESIDENT KIM WANTS A LOCAL UNION
BOARD WHICH WILL SUPPORT HIM IN FUTURE NTWU CONVENTIONS.

2. PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED BY TACTICS USED BY URBAN
INDUSTRIAL MISSION (UIM) FACTION IN PLANT. IN LINE

WITH VIEWS OF REV. CHO HWA-SUN, A WOMAN MINISTER AND UIM LEADER, UIM FACTION SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE ALL MALE EMPLOYEES FROM LOCAL UNION BOARD. THIS, ACCORDING TO FKTU, MADE TWO HUNDRED OR SO MALE EMPLOYEES WILLING TOOLS OF MANAGEMENT AND THE NTWU TO USE INTIMIDATION TO FRUSTRATE FREE UNION ELECTION. FKTU DOUBTS THAT MEN WILL BE RECONCILED TO ANY SOLUTION WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT THEM SOME REPRESENTATION IN UNION. SECONDLY, UIM FACTION HAS REFUSED TO COMPROMISE WITH OTHER WORKER GROUPS IN PLANT TO DEVELOP BROAD WORKER CONSENSUS. UIM HAS RELIED ON SUPPORT FROM CHURCHES AND ON APPEAL TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION RATHER THAN BARGAIN WITH OTHER WORKERS WHO DISAGREE WITH THEM.

3. FKTU AND NTWU HAVE BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR NOW, AND BULK OF FKTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS WOULD ENJOY SEEING NTWU PRESIDENT KIM TASTE DEFEAT ON THIS ISSUE. KIM HAS THROWN A NUMBER OF EXCELLENT TRADE UNIONISTS OUT OF THE NTWU BECAUSE THEY COULD BE RIVALS FOR PRESIDENCY IN FUTURE NATIONAL UNION ELECTIONS. ONE OF THOSE SHORN OF NTWU MEMBERSHIP IS A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FKTU, AND FKTU HAS REFUSED TO REMOVE HIM FROM ITS BOARD DESPITE KIM'S REPEATED DEMANDS. NEVERTHELESS, FKTU SOURCES INDICATE THAT TIME IS NOT RIPE TO CHALLENGE KIM DIRECTLY, SINCE AS NTWU PRESIDENT HE CONTROLS MORE VOTES THAN ANY OTHER INDUSTRIAL UNION PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE IS PRESIDENT OF FKTU PUSAN COUNCIL AND IS THUS ARMED WITH ANOTHER LARGE BLOCK OF VOTES.

4. TONGHIL DISPUTE IS ENTIRELY WITHIN NTWU'S JURISDICTION AND KIM ACTED IN ACCORD WITH HIS CHARTER IN INTERVENING TONGHIL UNION. FKTU BOARD HAS MET WITH KIM IN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE HIM TO COMPROMISE. ACCORDING TO FKTU SOURCES, KIM KNOWS HIS POSITION IS STRONG AND HE SIMPLY REFUSES TO ADMIT THAT THERE IS ANY PROBLEM.

5. FKTU LEADERS MET WITH CARDINAL KIM AND PROTESTANT LEADERS AT VARIOUS TIMES TO DISCUSS SITUATION. FKTU SOURCES SAID MEETINGS DID NOT GO WELL SINCE CHURCHMEN TENDED TO BE ACCUSATORY AND TO PRESUME THAT THE FKTU CONTROLLED THE NTWU.

6. TONGHIL GIRLS DEMONSTRATION AT FKTU LABOR DAY CONVO-CATION ON MARCH 10, HAS CAUSED FRICTION BETWEEN ROKG AND FKTU. AT FIRST FKTU LEADERS THOUGHT GIRLS WERE MERE DUPES OF RADICAL CHRISTIAN ACTIVISTS BENT ON EMBARRASSING FKTU. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THEY WERE FROM TONGHIL, MOST FKTU BOARD MEMBERS AGREED THAT GIRLS HAD JUSTIFICATION

IN BRINGING THEIR CASE TO CONVOCATION. FKTU SECGEN
WAS DISPATCHED TO POLICE TO PLEAD FOR RELEASE OF ALL
DEMONSTRATORS DETAINED. ACCORDING TO FKTU, ONLY TWO
GIRLS ARE STILL BEING HELD, AND THEY FACE CHARGES OF
DISORDERLY CONDUCT WITH POSSIBLE TWENTY DAY SENTENCES.

7. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE REPORTEDLY INFORMED FKTU
THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT ATTEND FUTURE LABOR DAY
CELEBRATIONS UNLESS FKTU TOOK STRONG STAND AND ASSURED
THAT SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD NOT OCCUR IN HIS
PRESENCE. PRIMIN'S OFFICE NOTED THE ROKG PAID ALL
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH LABOR DAY CELEBRATIONS. ACCORDING
TO FKTU SOURCES, PRESIDENT CHUNG REPLIED THAT FKTU
WOULD PAY FOR FUTURE LABOR DAY CONVOCATIONS, THAT PRIMIN
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AND OTHER MINISTERS WOULD BE WELCOME, BUT THAT WHETHER
THEY CAME OR NOT WAS UP TO ROKG.

8. COMMENT: THE TONGHIL DISPUTE HAS CREATED FRICTION
BETWEEN THE FKTU AND THE ROKG AND BETWEEN THE FKTU AND
CHURCH CIRCLES, BUT THE FKTU DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN
A POSITION TO SHAPE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.
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